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MEMORANDUM

CACL Bulletin: 10-003

TO: Child and Adult Care Licensing Staff and Partners
All Licensed Child Care Agencies

FROM: Lois Barrett Luke, Director, Child and Adult Care Licensing

DATE: September 9, 2010

RE: Napping Equipment

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the requirements for nap mats and sleeping surfaces placed on the floor and mattresses, mats and pads used in cribs and other pieces of napping equipment.

Two Inch Mat Thickness

Rules for Child Care Centers 1240-04-03-.08(4)(d)(1) and Drop-In Child Care Centers 1240-04-02-.06(4)(b)(1) state: *Individual cots or two-inch (2") mats shall be provided for children ages twelve (12) months through five (5) years.*

Rules for Group Child Care Homes 1240-04-01-.05(3)(b) and Family Child Care Homes 1240-04-04-.05(3)(b) state: *Each toddler who is able to walk and each preschooler shall have individual napping space, something soft and at least two inches thick to sleep on, and clean bedding. (Examples: couch with cover, thick sleeping bag or foam pad, family bed with cover, or cot with cover.)*

The intent of the rules is to provide comfort to children as well as sanitation by preventing direct contact with the floor. The requirement for a two inch (2") mat thickness applies only to mats placed on the floor.

Manufacturer's Safety Instructions for Use of Napping Equipment

Mats, pads and mattresses in cribs, playpens, port-a-cribs and other napping equipment must follow all instructions, including use of the original manufacturer's mat, pad or mattress.

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Rules for Child Care Centers 1240-04-03-.08(1)(a) states: *The manufacturer's safety instructions shall be followed for the use and/or installation of all indoor and outdoor equipment and appliances. Such instructions shall be retained and communicated to all appropriate staff.*

The requirement to follow manufacturer's safety instructions will be included in the upcoming revision of the rules for Drop-In Child Care Centers and Family and Group Child Care Homes. In the meantime, however, it is important that home providers follow the manufacturer's safety instructions for the use of mats, pads and mattresses in cribs and other napping equipment.

We urge home providers to immediately adopt these practices, in the best interests of the children served.

LBL:jv